

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Kerschen at 8:30 am on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, in room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Bud Estes – Excused

Committee staff present:
Jessa Farmer, Legislative Research Department
Judy Marks, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Scott Abbott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Craig Volland- Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club
Kathy Martin-on behalf of Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club
Donn Teske- Kansas Farmers Union
Chad Bontrager-Kansas Department of Agriculture
John Small-on behalf of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

Hearing continuation on: SB405 — Clarifying animal conversion units for poultry facilities with dry manure systems.

Chairperson Kerschen recognized Tucker Stewart of the Kansas Livestock Association who introduced members of the Young Stockman's Academy. Chairperson Kerschen welcomed them to the committee meeting.

Chairperson Kerschen reopened the hearing on **SB405**.

Secretary Jackie McClaskey and Dr. Peter Tomlinson addressed questions from the committee based on testimony from Feb. 12.

Kathy Martin testified in opposition to the bill. She expressed three areas of concern about the proposed change to animal unit calculations; comparison of manure/nitrogen phosphorus across all species, poultry litter disposal/reuse and the industry's preference for manure brokers, and mortality disposal/composting. She said that the contract grower has no control over anything dealing with the poultry except their litter and death.[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

Craig Volland testified in opposition to the bill. He believes this bill puts rural Kansas at risk. To him,

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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the central issue is what are the health impacts and quality of life effects of living only 1/4 mile from 333,000 chickens or 100 feet from 99,999 chickens? He said that neither the Kansas Department of Health and Environment or Kansas State University knows. ([Attachment 2](#))

Donn Teske testified in opposition to the bill. He stated that Kansas Farmers Union policy is opposed to industrial factory farming. He believes that Kansas is bribing industrial agriculture to come into the state in the name of economic development. However, he believes that it is not fostering economic activity. Instead it is killing rural communities in Kansas. ([Attachment 3](#))

Senator Francisco shared a memo with the committee that she received via e-mail from Josh Roe with the Department of Agriculture. The memo contains a link to an article about separation distances, buffers, etc. from the University of Georgia. ([Attachment 4](#))

Written testimony in opposition of the bill was submitted by:

Lori Lawrence-Wichita, KS([Attachment 5](#))

Sue Lamberson- Clearwater, KS([Attachment 6](#))

Cecilia Pruitt- Tonganoxie, KS([Attachment 7](#))

Dawn Buehler- Friends of the Kaw([Attachment 8](#))

Mary Fund- Kansas Rural Center([Attachment 9](#))

Charles Herd- Coldwater, KS([Attachment 10](#))

After a question and answer period following the testimony, Chairperson Kerschen closed the hearing on **SB405**.

Hearing on: SB414 — Moving egg repackaging requirements from statute to rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of the Kansas department of agriculture.

Chairperson Kerschen opened the hearing on **SB414**.

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Tamera Lawrence of the Revisor of Statutes explained the bill.

Chad Bontrager testified in support of the bill. He explained that egg retailers have told the Department of Agriculture that the repackaging requirements are burdensome and could be improved with a few small changes. This bill removes the language from the statute and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations. ([Attachment 11](#))

John Small testified in support of the bill. He said that the passage of this bill would be an important step in streamlining egg regulation and would allow the experts at the Kansas Department of Agriculture to enact appropriate regulations governing the repackaging of eggs. ([Attachment 12](#))

Chairperson Kerschen closed the hearing on **SB414** and adjourned the meeting.